

## Power of the Gospel

### Colossians 1:1-6

*How do we know there is power in God's word? ---Does anything actually happen when a person invites Jesus into their life? ---Is there actual evidence that the gospel has power to change lives? ---Isn't salvation just an emotional or psychological response to the power of suggestion put there by the preacher? ---Perhaps a person is tired of their life & they want to make a change. So in that case wouldn't an altar call for Buddah, Krishna, Mohammed, Bahu'ala, or any higher power as AA suggest be just as effective? ONLY Jesus died, buried, rose, ascended, is coming back.*

Amos & Andy show. Kingfish (mischievous one) was selling a car that was a piece of junk to Andy (lovable-gullible). *'Let's go for a spin!' said Andy. Now before ya goes a spinnin Andy let me splain something to ya.' This here car doesn't run on ordinary gasoline it's a foreign automobile, it runs on petrol and there's not a drop of petrol in the whole city. Andy then says, 'Let's have a look at the motor.'* Andy you can't look at the motor cause this here motor is locked & sealed in oil. Finally Andy opens the hood & there's no engine.

Thinking I can change my life & be a different person apart from Jesus Christ is like buying a car w/o an engine. You can sit in it, honk horn, turn steering wheel, flash lights, flip the turn signals, adjust the seats, even play radio but you're not going anywhere.

***Jer 13:23 Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? Neither can you do good who are accustomed to doing evil. (NIV)***

Change comes from w/in by God giving a new heart, a new nature, a new power--Its like God putting an engine in the car--now it can take you places **Gods' word was changing lives in Colossae.**

Theme: Pre-eminence of Christ-He is all & in all, forgives sin, abundant life, brings us to heaven. We are complete in Christ, who is creator, redeemer, head of church, He's all we need for life & godliness

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*1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, 2 to the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.*

Apostle by will of God--one sent out on behalf of Christ to preach, teach, establish churches. All of us are something *by the will of God*. Mother, father, student, carpenter, doctor, surfboard maker. Whatever you are, be the best you can be as follower of Christ. *Faithful*--to follow fully in what you know about Christ--Secular carries over to spiritual... *surfboards*

*Saints*, called out ones, separated to Christ *1Cor 1:22 to the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours: Grace & peace*

*Col 1:3-6 We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, 4 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints; 5 because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel, 6 which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing, even as it has been doing in you also since the day you heard of it and understood the grace of God in truth;*

:3 One in nature w/ God--pointing out deity of Jesus. *Give thanks*-attitude of gratitude we are to have. *Praying always*-habit to develop, fight against distractions-*pray the psalms*.

Object of prayers, *faith in Christ & love of saints* He prayed for greater faith & love. Evidence of faith is love for brothers & sisters. *Reason* for faith & love is the hope laid up in heaven for them-*word of truth, gospel*, good news. Classical Grk '*good news of victory in battle*' Contrast w/ false teaching, bad news, *empty deception* 2:8

*Constantly bearing fruit* It had been 30 years since death & resurrection & Pentecost & gospel going out from Jerusalem into Syria, Asia minor Greece, Italy, Egypt, No Africa, Persia.. Gospel doesn't change, it is the same message & relevant throughout the world, transcends ethnicity, geography, culture and political systems.

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### **Colossians 1:1-6**

*Bearing fruit*--saving effect of gospel—there is inherent power in word—whatever it makes contact w/ has potential for growth & transformation. Soil determines productivity.

As the passage indicates, there is intrinsic power in the gospel **6b** It is powerful, supernatural & divinely imparted. All other *religions*, *philosophies*, *psychological techniques* are **self-generated & man motivated**. They are flawed w/o power to give life or bring lasting change no matter how well promoted they are. *Ps 116:11 'all men are liars.'* *Word of God by power of God changing the people of God thru Christ our God.*

*John 10:1 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter by the door into the fold of the sheep, but climbs up some other way, he is a thief and a robber.*

All other religious philosophies, spiritual techniques, pious belief systems are like religious **Japeto's** seeking to create spiritual **Pinoccios**. Life will not come from non-life.

According to Jesus any system claiming to get to God apart from Him are thieves & robbers. Jesus is the only life after death & proves it by His **resurrection**

*John 11:25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies,*

Therefore life comes thru Him alone--all other religious leaders died are dead thus unable to give life.

*John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.*

Jesus is called the *rose of Sharon, the lily of the valley Song 2:1* fragrant, nectar, beauty, life, ability to reproduce of like kind. Others are artificial, synthetic, fake flowers wanting to pass as real. You can water them, expose to sunlight, prune, scent, even lecture on the superiority of your flowers.

## **Power of the Gospel**

### **Colossians 1:1-6**

Explain how they have brought hope & joy to countless people & seek to pass them off as real. You may fool some but the truth is they won't grow or reproduce because they have no life.

The inherent nature of the gospel is that it is alive & gives life.

***1Thes 2:13 For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs it's work in you who believe.***

This was true of the Colossians as w/ all believers--Gods word begins to take root & grow from the very first day they heard, understood & responded to it. ...***constantly bearing fruit & increasing, even as it has been doing in you also since the day you heard of it & understood the grace of God in truth***

Jesus compares the word of God to seed. Both have inherent potential w/in them to produce after their genetic code. **Corn** has DNA that produces corn every time it is planted. For thousands of years it's been consistent, w/o change & dependable. In FACT---

The English traveler Wilkinson found in a mummy pit a hermetically sealed jar that he shipped to the British museum. A librarian accidentally dropped it, spilling the contents of peas & corn. All were as hard as stone. 6/4, 1844 research was conducted by the museum & some of the seeds were planted. W/in 30 days new life sprung from 3000 yr old seeds dating back to the time of Moses. Time had not changed the genetic code in the seed.

The same is true of the word of God. Where ever it goes things happen—Jesus spoke the word & the **demoniac** was delivered, man w/ **withered** hand was healed, Mary **Magdalene** w/ 7 demons was set free, hardened **fishermen softened**—**makes** Thieves into givers; **Haters** into lovers; **Brutes** into gentlemen; **Lustful** into pure; **Angry** into kind hearted

***Mark 4:26-28 video Jesus was saying, The kingdom of God is like a man who casts seed upon the soil; and he goes to bed at night and gets up by day, and the seed sprouts and grows, how, he himself does not know. The soil produces crops by itself; first the blade, then the head, then the mature grain in the head.***

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**We try to help**-dig at seed, over water, pull at plant, hover over & smother. Leave seed alone, let it grow if soil is good, life will naturally produce life.

**Mango** seed is flat, elongated pit...w/in its genetic info there is the capacity to reproduce a fruit bearing mango tree w/ roots, bark, branches, leaves & potential 100's of fruit-one seed planted. Same w/ apple, pear, papaya, etc.

Because each seed is in a cocoon of genetic data we can predict what kind of tree & fruit will come out of that particular seed. Its potential is locked w/in its shell. When planted, death takes place, shell is broken open and the life w/in is released. So it is w/ us we die to self & live unto Christ.

***John 12:24 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.***

***Isaiah 55:10,11 'For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there without watering the earth and making it bear and sprout, and furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.***

God's word does to our hearts what rain does to a dry & barren landscape. It brings life & fruitfulness. God's word in our withered, wasted & wretched lives brings total renewal.

The true story of Mutiny on the Bounty demonstrates the power of Gods word to change lives. 9 mutineers along w/ 6 native men & 12 Tahitian women fled to Pitcairn Island in 1790. Soon one sailor began distilling alcohol & not long after the little colony spiraled into depravity. Ten years later most died of disease or were killed off by the others and only one white man, a few native women & some hapa kids were left. In a chest from the Bounty the man found a bible. He began reading it & teaching it to the others. Years later the USS Topas discovered Pitcairn Island. A thriving community existed. Citizens were so radically changed that there was no jail, no whisky, no crime, no laziness--the bible the centerpiece

The value of the scriptures is evidenced by objective reasoning (**observation**) & subjective experience (**what it does in a life**). What it says is objectively true or false. It is not a book of science & yet it makes scientific observations. In the 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> C science said the world was flat. 4000 years earlier Job said it was round.

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***Job 22:14 Thick clouds cover Him, so that He cannot see, and He walks above the circle of heaven. Is 40:22 It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, and it's inhabitants are like grasshoppers...***

Science used to think the world was suspended on the shoulders of Atlas or sitting on the back of a turtle. The bible disagreed! ***Job 26:7 'He stretches out the north over empty space and hangs the earth on nothing'.***

If the Bible declares some scientific blunder, archeological blooper, historical heresy or prophetic mistake then discount the whole thing because ***2 Tim 3:16 All scripture is inspired by God***

The Bible is self-validating-outside examination has proven it true. Sir Frederic Kenyon, one of the greatest authorities in the field of textual criticism. Director of the British Museum said 'the Christian can take the whole Bible in his hand & say w/o fear of hesitation that he holds in it the true Word of God, handed down w/o essential loss from generation to generation throughout the centuries'.

The subjective evidence is found in the one who gives their life to Christ for salvation—& finding old things pass away, all things become new. It can happen to you

## **COMMUNION**